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on a valuation of \$10,000 in place of \$40,000, for Mr. George would let all the taxes fall on the land only. Their residences, the tenements they build, their factories, etc., would go free. Would not thus the rich grow richer?

BARCLAY ADAMS.

XI.

COMMUNISM AND PROTECTION.

It is a historical fact that Communistic theories of robbery had but little foothold in this country prior to the inauguration of the present protective tariff policy. Is their prevalence now a coincidence merely? Or is there any necessary relation between Communism and tariffs for protection?

Communism, Socialism, Henry Georgeism, and all that family of dogmas, have, among their adherents, one common essential principle—that it is the right and the duty of Government to seize, by law, the fruits of the labor of one man and divide them with others.

Tariffs for protection have for their essential and fundamental principle the right and the duty of Government to seize, by law, the earnings of one man and give them over to another.

The advocates of Protection and the Socialists both not only claim this common fundamental right, but both base their claim upon a patriotic regard for the general welfare, the difference being mainly in the character and influence of the men who advocate the one or the other.

In a speech delivered by Mr. Blaine in August, 1886, at Lake Sebago, he boasted of the enormous growth in wealth of those States which had availed themselves to the greatest extent of the Protective Tariff within the past twenty-five years. And he sustained his boast with an array of figures that were startling.

It is to be regretted that this distinguished gentleman did not dwell with equal emphasis upon the want of even normal growth in what I may be permitted to distinguish as the consuming States, at whose expense this abnormal growth had been effected. As Mr. Blaine is not ignorant of the economic fact that not the increase so much as the distribution of the wealth of a nation is the true measure of its prosperity, his boastful spirit might have been somewhat dampened if he had sought far enough to find that while there had been a congestion of wealth in the manufacturing States, there had been a corresponding depletion in the consuming States. The earnings of the latter had been seized, by law, and handed over to the former.

One of the pyramids of Egypt, a useless tomb of a despotic monarch, cost the labor of 360,000 men for twenty years. At the same rate of wages that an American laborer receives, this would have cost about three thousand millions of dollars, or about twenty times as much as the assessed valuation of the whole State of Arkansas. The royal residence of Peru cost the labor of 20,000 men for fifty years, while that of Mexico cost the labor of 200,000 men.

It was once the wont to point to these immense expenditures as evidence of the great wealth of these nations. Yet it may well be doubted whether any one of them, in its palmiest days, was equal in wealth to the single State of New York. But the enormous wealth of the king and nobility was at the expense of all the rest of the community. The laborers who built the pyramid received as their share of their own earnings, we are told, less than two cents per day.

In the one case the Government seized, by law, the just earnings of the

masses and appropriated them to the king and nobles. In the other case, the Government seized, by law, the just earnings of the consumers of our country and appropriated them to the manufacturer and his factory hands.

The Protectionist press and stump orators are accustomed to appeal to the selfishness of the factory hand and of his employer, urging the one to use his ballot and the other his purse, to perpetuate the protective policy, lest the wages of the one and the profits of the other be diminished. The journals and the men who make these appeals represent large wealth and intelligence and influence. What wonder that the less educated Communist should reason that if it is right to use the ballot for taking, by law, the property of the consumer and giving it over to the manufacturer and his workmen, it is equally right for the poor to use their ballot to take from the rich and give to the needy.

W. M. FISHBACK.